

STAT

Russians Give U.S. Tourist 18 Months in Border Crossing

MURMANSK, U.S.S.R. (AP) —A Soviet court today sentenced a young American tourist, Newcomb Mott of Sheffield, Mass., to 18 months in a labor camp for illegally crossing the Arctic border between Norway and the Soviet Union.

The court rejected the 27-year-old book salesman's contention that he was "hot' tired and lost" when he crossed the border last Sept. 4.

Mott heard the sentence without any visible display of emotion.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman had no immediate comment.

Just before Judge G. I. Klementyev read the sentence, Mott closed his eyes for several seconds. Then, standing in the fenced-in dock, he opened his eyes and glanced at his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mott of Sheffield, who had flown to the Soviet Union for the trial.

Told later that he would receive a package that his parents had brought for his use in prison should he be confined, young Mott said, "That, of course, is not what I wanted."

The prosecutor asked for a



NEWCOMB MOTT

2½-year sentence Tuesday. The section of law under which Mott was tried carries a penalty of one to three years imprisonment.

Mott's Russian defense lawyer said the American should be given a probationary or conditional sentence because of his "sincere repentance and mitigating circumstances."

Mott told the court he had

crossed the border through carelessness and without thinking. He had been traveling in Norway and was arrested Sept. 4 just inside Soviet territory near the town of Borisoglebsk.

Norway and the Soviet Union have an agreement to let Norwegians visit the town without visas during the summer months.

The judge and two assessors, an engineer and a woman schoolteacher, returned the sentence after deliberating for 2 hours and 23 minutes.

Klementyev said the court had taken Mott's good behavior into consideration.

The sentence is to be served in a corrective labor camp of general regime rather than a hard-labor camp.

The sentence begins from Sept. 4. Under Soviet law Mott will be eligible for parole after serving half the time.

Klementyev explained to Mott that the sentence could be appealed. The American said he understood.

The court also fined Mott \$127.11 for expenses of a translator during the investigation of his case.